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Message Text

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44
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02

OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-11 /066 W
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R 021210Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6058

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAIR, IT
SUBJECT: CIVAIR - 1976 SUMMER ALL-CARGO SERVICES

REF: (A) STATE 45323, (B) ROME 3146

1. BOTH LOCAL PAA REP AND SEABOARD REP HAVE EXPRESSED ANXIETY RE 1976 SUMMER ALL-CARGO SCHEDULES, NOTING THAT SUMMER SEASON BEGINS APRIL 1 AND THEY STILL HAVE NO RPT NO INDICATION OF WHAT ALL-CARGO SERVICES THEY WILL BE PERMITTED TO OPERATE THIS SUMMER. PAA PLANS TO INTRODUCE 747-F ON JUNE 12 AND SEABOARD ON MAY 3; THESE PLANS NOW IN LIMBO.

2. SEABOARD REPS LONDON (BLAKE) AND NEW YORK (STEVENS) TELEPHONED EMBOFF MARCH 1 TO EXPRESS SAME CONCERN. STEVENS STATED THAT GOI HAD FIRMLY REJECTED BOTH DIRECT 747-F SERVICE AND CHANGE OF GAUGE OUTSIDE ITALY DURING FEBRUARY CIVAIR CONSULTATIONS. HE ASKED EMBOFF'S ADVICE ON HOW TO PROCEED. EMBOFF SAID THAT IT APPEARED FURTHER USG/GOI DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE NECESSARY BEFORE ISSUE CAN BE RESOLVED AND THAT, IN VIEW OF RAPIDLY APPROACHING SUMMER SEASON, SUCH DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE RESUMED ASAP. EMBOFF SUGGESTED SEABOARD CONTACT DEPARTMENT FOR ITS EVALUATION OF SITUATION.
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3. STEVENS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT SEABOARD WOULD PREFER 1976 SUMMER SCHEDULE WITH 2 OR 3 DIRECT 747-F SERVICES A WEEK, WITH THE BALANCE (6 OR 4 WEEKLY FREQUENCIES, RESPECTIVELY) IN DC-8/63F SERVICES.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES USG AND GOI REPS SHOULD RESUME TALKS ON ALL-CARGO SERVICES, PERHAPS AS A SEPARATE ISSUE, AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY. WE NOW HAVE SITUATION WHERE GOI/ALITALIA APPEARS TO BE IMPOSING UNILATERAL DECISION RE TYPE OF AIRCRAFT WHICH CAN BE EMPLOYED ON US-ITALY ROUTE (SEE ALITALIA REP LECCESE'S REMARKS REFTEL B) DESPITE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 9(E) OF US-ITALY AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. GOI/ALITALIA ARGUMENT THAT USE OF 747-F NOT FORESEEN AT TIME BILATERAL SIGNED IS WEAK. AT THAT TIME, LUFTHANSA ALREADY HAD PLACED AN ORDER FOR A 747-F. IF USE OF WIDEBODIED AIRCRAFT NOT FORESEEN, THEN THERE IS NO NEED TO MENTION "CAPACITY EQUIVALENT" IN PARA (6) OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR FOR A SEPARATE SIDE AGREEMENT ON CHANGE OF GAUGE. MOREOVER, ALITIALIA ALREADY CARRYING CARGO ON MAIN DECK OF ITS 747S (REMOVAL OF 79 SEATS TO GAIN EXTRA CARGO SPACE) ON ROME/MILAN-NEW YORK ROUTES.

5. PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY RE FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS AND OTHER SCHEDULED SERVICE ISSUES. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S THOUGHTS ON WHETHER SEPARATE DISCUSSION OF ALL-CARGO SERVICES MIGHT PREJUDICE OUTCOME OF OTHER, MORE IMPORTANT ISSUES.BEAUDRY

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